

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2683

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY TU UN

SUBJECT: UNFICYP OBSERVATIONS IN FAMAGUSTA AND KYRENIA DISTRICTS

1. SUMMARY: UNFICYP AND UNCIVPOL SOURCES HAVE PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN FAMAGUSTA AND KYRENIA DISTRICTS. SOURCES REPORT MOVEMENT SOME MAINLAND TURKS INTO KATO VAROSHA (FAMAGUSTA) FOR SETTLEMENT. COMBINED WITH OUT OBSERVATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION, NUMBER SETTLERS APPEARS BE AROUND 3,000. TURK CYPRIOTS APPEAR BE SETTLING MOST OF VAROSHA AREA, MAKING LESS LIKELY FUTURE SUBSTANTIAL TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS THAT AREA. UNFICYP STILL HAVING PROBLEM WITH TURKISH ARMY IN ESTABLISHMENT POSTS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS AS PROVIDED IN VIENNA III AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH FOUR POSTS NOW OPERATING IN KARPASS AND MOBILE PATROLS ARE PERMITTED IN KYRENIA. END SUMMARY.

2. SWEDISH ARMY CAPTAIN ASSIGNED TO FAMAGUSTA UNFICYP
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CONTINGENT TOLD DCM SEPTEMBER 1 HE ESTIMATES APPROXIMATELY

2,000 MAINLAND TURKS HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO KATO VAROSHA AREA (WD 852859) IN WESTERN FAMAGUSTA CITY. UNFICYP DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF PLACES TOTAL NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS INTO KATO VAROSHA AT 3,000 AND STATES THEY ARE A MIXTURE OF TURK CYPRIOTS AND MAINLAND TURKS. FRICTION BETWEEN MIANLAND TURKS AND TURK CYPRIOTS WHEN SETTLED IN SAME AREA HAS BEEN REPORTED.

3. SWEDISH OFFICER ALSO DESCRIBED LOOTING IN VAROSHA. "SELECTIVE REQUISITION" BY TURKISH ARMY UNITS HAS CONTINUED IN RECENT MONTHS AND IS GRADUALLY STRIPPING VAROSHA OF CONSUMER GOODS, INCLUDING AUTOMOBILES. TURKISH ARMY IS ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL "ILLEGAL" LOOTING BY TURKISH/TURKISH CYPRIOTS CIVILIANS; AS MANY AS 40 PERSONS PER NIGHT ARE ARRESTED AND WARNING SHOTS ARE HEARD BY UNFICYP PATROLS. NEVERTHELESS, SAYS SWEDISH OFFICER, VAROSHA IS BEING PICKED CLEAN OF VALUABLES INCLUDING PLUMBING FIXTURES, DOOR JAMS AND WINDOW FRAMES BY NEW SETTLERS IN CONTIGUOUS AREAS. IN HIS OPINION, RECONSTRUCTION JOB FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS WILL BE VAST. OFFICER ALSO POINTS OUT THAT ENCROACHMENT INTO TOURIST AREA BY IMMIGRANTS LEAVES RELATIVELY NARROW AREA (MAINLY NEAR KENNEDY AVENUE) FOR REOCCUPATION BY GREEK RESIDENTS AND WOULD PRESENT REAL PROBLEM IN MAKING FAMAGUSTA SLEEK TOURIST ATTRACTION IT ONCE WAS. TURKISH AUTHORITIES ARE REDEDIGNATING CERTAIN HOMES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF FAMAGUSTA WITH NEW SPRAY-PAINTED NUMBERS. IN PAST, ACCORDING TO SWEDISH OFFICER, THIS HAS BEEN INDICATIVE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION OF SIZE, FACILITIES, CONDITION, ETC., PRIOR TO ASSIGNMENT OF IMMIGRANT FAMILY UNIT.

4. SWEDISH LIEUTENANT (UNCIVPOL) COMMANDING ONE OF FOUR "LIAISON POSTS" (LP) NEAR YIALOUSA REPORTS GREEK CYPRIOTS LIVING THERE ARE BEING TREATED WELL BY TURKISH AUTHORITIES. THERE IS CURFEW FROM 2100 TO 0600 HOURS AND RESIDENTS MUST OBTAIN PERMITS TO GO TO/FROM THEIR FIELDS, AS WELL AS BETWEEN VILLAGES. IN OFFICER'S OPINION, "GREEKS HAVE MORE FOOD NOW THAN TWO YEARS BEFORE"; GREEKS SOMETIMES TURN BACK FOOD TO UNHCR (OR GIVE IT TO UNFICYP), CLAIMING THAT THEY HAVE TOO MUCH. CONFIRMING ABOVE, UNSYG SPEC REP'S POLAD TOLD DCM SEPTEMBER 2 THAT HIS TRIP TO KARPASS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPANY OF UNFICYP CG AND UN SPEC REP AMBASSADOR WECKMANN REVEALED THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE NO LONGER "LIVING IN CLIMATE OF FEAR" AS HAD BEEN CASE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

5. UNFICYP STILL HAVING PROBLEMS ESTABLISHING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. WHILE FOUR LP'S IN YIALOUSA AREA OPERATING EFFECTIVELY PER VIENNA III ACCORDS, UN ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH FIFTH LP IN RIZOKARPASO HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. IN

KYRENIA AREA, UNFICYP IS LIMITED TO ONE STATIC CAMP (FINCON NEAR SUMMIT OF NICOSIA-KYRENIA PASS ROAD). UNFICYP COMMANDER LTG PREM CHAND HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR ADDITIONAL THREE LP'S TO OBSERVE CONDITIONS IN GREEK POPULATION AREAS AROUND KYRENIA TOWN (APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PERSONS TO EAST, 500 TO WEST). THUS FAR, TURKISH ARMY HAS REFUSED AND AGREES ONLY ALLOW MOBILE UNFICYP PATROLS ONCE WEEKLY ON MONDAYS.

6. COMMENT: A. SETTLEMENT OF KATO VAROSHA AREA (NORTH AND WEST OF NEW FAMAGUSTA) IS INDEED TAKING PLACE, AND ESTIMATE OF 3,000 SETTLERS IN THAT AREA TO DATE SEEMS ABOUT RIGHT. WE MAIN SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF KATO VAROSHA SETTLERS ARE FROM MAINLAND. DURING RECENT VISIT BY TURKISH-SPEAKING EMBOFF, NO MAINLAND TURKS WERE IN EVIDENCE AND VIRTUALLY ALL OF NUMEROUS PEOPLE EMBOFF SPOKE WITH WERE REFUGEES RECENTLY TRANSFERRED FROM SOUTH. EMBOFF WILL BE VISITING FAMAGUSTA EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR FOLLOW-UP OBSERVATIONS.

B. ABOVE IMPRESSION IS REINFORCED BY RECENT CONVERSATION WITH ORHAN ZIHNI, A MODERATE IN DENKTASH CABINET WHO HOLDS EDUCATION, JUSTICE AND INTERIOR PORTFOLIOS AND WHO SERVES AS MINISTER OF STATE IN CHELIK'S ABSENCE. ACCORDING ZIHNI, SOME 1500-2000 TURKS HAD BEEN BROUGHT FROM MAINLAND, SOME FOR SHORT PERIODS, OTHERS FOR INDEFINITE TIME, TO HELP FILL CRITICAL LABOR SHORTAGES AT HARVEST TIME AND TO MAINTAIN CITRUS GROVES NEAR FAMAGUSTA. ZIHNI NOTED THAT MOST OF THESE PEOPLE ARE DELIBERATELY BEING SETTLED IN VILLAGES OUTSIDE FAMAGUSTA SO AS TO LIMIT LOOTING AND DISORDER WHICH EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN OCCURRED IN TOTALLY DESERTED VILLAGES.

C. SETTLEMENT OF KATO VAROSHA AREA, WHICH HAD BEEN THOUGHT
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TO BE PRIME CANDIDATE FOR GREEK REFUGEE RETURN, COULD MAKE TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN THIS AREA MOST DIFFICULT FOR TURKS. ON OTHER HAND -- AND IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS SETTLEMENT -- ZIHNI SAID THAT SETTLERS HAD TO SIGN DOCUMENTS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT TFSC RETAINED FULL RIGHTS TO MOVE FAMILIES OUT OF HOMES AT WILL.
END COMMENT.
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